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**INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE
MALI PROGRAM**

QUARTERLY REPORT

Integrated Program to Increase Resilience of Vulnerable Populations in Mopti, Gao and Kidal Regions

(CONTRACT NO: AID-OFDA-G-14-00098)

PRESENTED TO:

**THE USAID OFFICE OF FOREIGN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

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I. Executive Summary

PROGRAM TITLE:	Integrated Program to Increase Resilience of Vulnerable Populations in Mopti, Gao and Kidal Regions
PROJECT NO:	AID-OFDA-G-14-00098
AGENCY:	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
COUNTRY:	Mali
REPORTING PERIOD:	July 1- September 30, 2015
GOAL:	Vulnerable individuals, households and communities in the Gao, Mopti and Kidal regions of Mali have increased resilience through enhanced capabilities and resources, assisting them to manage shocks, change, and thrive in the face of adversity.
OBJECTIVES:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To increase knowledge and awareness on GBV and Child Protection; improve access to psycho-social services; support and advocate for protection and promotion of the rights of children and women.2. To increase access to basic water and sanitation facilities, to promote awareness to control and prevent WASH related diseases and to promote resilience for future shocks.3. To increase awareness, knowledge, create behavior change, and advocate on nutrition issues for communities and authorities.4. To enhance women's livelihoods through a pilot program of direct support using VSLA methodology and business skills (including literacy and numeracy).
BENEFICIARIES:	Total targeted: 75,268 Protection: 9,658 WASH: 22,916 Nutrition: 7,555 Early Recovery and Market Systems: 4,815 IDP beneficiaries: 7,500 (estimated 10% of total beneficiaries) Individuals affected in target area: 1,090,641
LOCATION:	Mopti, Gao and Kidal Regions
DURATION:	18 months (July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015)
SUMMARY:	

II. Summary of Activities

Objective 1: To increase knowledge and awareness on GBV and Child Protection; improve access to psycho-social services; support and advocate for protection and promotion of the rights of children and women

Protection

Beneficiary numbers

Beneficiaries Targeted: 9,658 total direct beneficiaries, including 5,560 for Child Protection and 4,020 for Prevention and Response to GBV, and 78 government and IRC staff benefiting from trainings and support. Reached in the quarter: 3,304 total direct beneficiaries reached this quarter, including 1,466 for Child Protection, 1,806 for GBV, and 52 government and IRC staff.

Sub-sector 1: Child Protection

Trainings

83 people including 51 women in Douentza participated in trainings on the rights and protection of children:

- 24 community actors (protection committee members, community relays, protection focal points, women's associations) including 10 women participated in a training on the roles and responsibilities of community actors in upholding children's rights. The training was led by the local partner, GSAD, in July. Following this training, participants put together a sustainability plan to ensure that they participate more actively in child protection activities, such as debate-discussions and radio spots on child rights, the importance of the participation of girls in schools, and forced marriage.
- 59 people, including 41 women, took part in a training in Douentza and Boni led by GSAD in August to sensitize communities on the negative impact of forced and early marriage.

Children's Clubs and Child Protection Committees

In July, the local partner GSAD facilitated a discussion with 41 youth from Boni and Kona in Douentza on early and forced marriage. The youth will then share these messages with their peers, an activity which is in line with the national campaign launched by the Ministry of Children, Women and Family on this topic. In order to ensure the sustainability of these activities, GSAD held a two-day workshop in the Douentza Children's center with 29 participants, including 7 women, from protection committees as well as representatives from the town hall. During this workshop, a management committee was put in place to oversee the center.

Case Management

The IRC registered 484 children including 219 girls who received support through case management. IRC case workers identified 130 cases including 75 girls and 55 boys in Ansongo and 354 cases including 210 girls and 14 boys in Douentza. These cases for the most part presented the following vulnerabilities: abandonment and neglect of parents, young mothers without livelihood support, out-of-school children, orphans without sources of support, and the child-headed households. 47% of these children are between 6 and 12 years old and 38% are between 13 and 18 years. This shows that the greater part of the very vulnerable children are school-aged children. 93 cases were closed in Douentza and Ansongo during this reporting period and 338 cases in Douentza still require monitoring before their case can be closed. A case can only be closed once the IRC and the families have determined that the child has received the necessary support and has reached the objectives established in their action plan. This can take several months depending on the case. The IRC is the only actor providing case management support in Douentza and as such the IRC would like to continue monitoring activities of these cases until the end of the project (December 31, 2015).

Psychosocial Activities

The IRC provided psychosocial support and awareness raising to 106 children and youth including 63 girls and 43 boys. The awareness-raising sessions focused on the importance of school, avoiding explosive remnants of war, and good hygiene practices. The IRC carried out these activities in different neighborhoods of Gao, and they included storytelling, plays, soccer, and other games.

In Kidal, 226 children including 130 girls took part in psychosocial activities in three child friendly spaces. In Douentza, GSAD was able to reach 879 children including 431 girls in communities and the children's center. 42% of the children in Douentza are out of school. Their participation in psychosocial activities reduces the risks that they are exposed to in communities when they remain at home without access to basic services such as education.

Awareness Raising

Community awareness activities were held in Kidal, Gao and Douentza. In Gao, 785 people including 494 women and 291 men were reached through awareness raising activities organized by the local partner CRADE. The main themes developed during these awareness raising sessions include: girls' education, the vulnerability of children in times of conflict, and the importance of playing for child development. In Kidal, GARDL was able to reach 320 people including 196 women during its community dialogue activities that covered topics such as the fight against early marriage and avoiding the explosive remnants of war. Finally, in Douentza, Konna and Boni, the team was able to reach 1,368 people (230 men, 383 women, 330 boys and 425 girls) through awareness raising activities including skits and songs.

Sub-sector 2: Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

GBV Prevention

In May 2015, the IRC had to suspend activities due to a renewal of fighting between armed groups in Menaka in late April. The GBV teams were able to resume activities in August in Anouzegrene, Inchinanane and Tagalalt thanks to an improved security situation. The team held 35 sessions on GBV prevention including discussion groups with men's groups and girls from the Girl Effect activity, as well as mass and household-level awareness raising sessions. A total of 1,806 people were reached including 840 women, 628 girls, 181 men and 157 boys. 52 people (19 volunteers, 8 men from the discussion groups, and 25 AVEC members) were trained on GBV concepts and psychosocial support for survivors. The IRC teams held 13 focus groups with a total of 294 people in Menaka and Tinabaw through which the IRC measured the communities' knowledge of GBV and available services. 51.02% participants scored higher than 50%.

The IRC intensified GBV activities during the reporting period in Menaka city, Tinabaw and Touloupe with the help of women's committees, which performed awareness raising activities on GBV prevention for the five formal VSLA groups and the 15 groups that were created by communities themselves.

The team was able to put in place four platforms in Anouzegrene, Inchinane, Tinabaw and Tagalalt made up of village chiefs, women leaders, GBV volunteers, and a health center focal point to ensure implementation and monitoring of prevention, response and awareness raising activities in order to ensure the sustainability of the project.

GBV Response

14 GBV cases were documented in Menaka during the reporting period: 3 cases of psychological violence, 3 cases of physical violence, 1 rape, 3 cases of denial of resources, and 4 cases of forced marriage. The rape survivor benefited from psychosocial and medical support from the IRC. Out of these 14 GBV cases, 2 were referred by VSLA members, 1 by a male GBV staff, 8 referred themselves to the IRC after awareness raising activities, and 3 were referred by a community leader in Inchinanane.

Sub-sector 3: Protection Coordination, Advocacy, and Information

Child Protection Coordination

The IRC along with other child protection actors and the government are currently preparing for the process of disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion of children from armed groups. The IRC continues to advocate in the Child Protection Subcluster for the dissemination of case management tools, which can be used in the DDR initiative.

Gender Based Violence Coordination

The IRC, in consortium with Plan Mali, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Vision, Care and Save the Children will participate in the launch of the national campaign against early marriage in October 2015. This campaign will last two years throughout Mali. In Menaka, the IRC team will implement activities on the topic of early marriage during 16 days in November and December.

Objective 2: To increase access to basic water and sanitation facilities, to promote awareness to control and prevent WASH related diseases and to promote resilience for future shocks.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Beneficiary numbers

Beneficiaries targeted: 22,916 direct beneficiaries, including 10,728 in and outpatients with access of WASH facilities rehabilitated in 3 CSCom, 11,298 people through hygiene education, 800 children benefiting from rehabilitated WASH facilities in child centers, and 90 people receiving training through the project. Reached in the quarter: 650

Sub-sector 1, 2 & 3: Sanitation Infrastructure; Environmental Health; Water Supply Infrastructure

Rehabilitation/Construction of Women and Children's Centers

- Menaka Women's Center: Construction work began in May with the construction of two latrine blocs, a shower, and water point and the installation of a hand washing station in each latrine bloc. These activities were completed in July.
- All other works in Menaka, Gao and Douentza were completed during the previous quarter.

Sub-sector 4: Hygiene Promotion

During the quarter, specifically in July (the last month for WASH activities under the current grant) the local partner, ADDA completed the following activities:

- Held two trainings in July, one on the risk of using untreated water and open air defecation and another on management of rehabilitated works.
- Held awareness raising activities on hygiene promotion in 12 villages in Douentza reaching 5,151 people.

Objective 3: To increase awareness, knowledge, create behavior change, and advocate on nutrition issues for communities and authorities.

Nutrition

Beneficiary numbers

Beneficiaries targeted: 7,555 direct beneficiaries, including 200 women receiving IYCF counseling, 55 Community Health Workers supported, and 7300 people receiving behavior change intervention.

Reached in the quarter: 2,835 direct beneficiaries, including 54 women receiving IYCF counseling, 10 Community Health Workers supported, and 2,775 people receiving behavior change intervention;

Sub-sector 1: Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and Behavior Change

During the reporting period, the following activities were completed:

- The IRC completed the rehabilitation of the pilot counselling center in the referral health center of Menaka (CSRef) (1 room and 1 hangar) and provided all the specific IYFC material (projector, television, IEC/CCC material and furniture). This pilot counselling center is located near the nutrition unit and the maternity ward allowing for better follow up of pregnant and lactating women attending health services.
- In early July, the IRC's IYCF Officer and the CSRef Medical Doctor provided a five-day training to five IYCF community groups (a total of 50 women with 1 group per neighborhood of Menaka city) that had been previously created. These groups aim to sensitize women on IYCF practices and provide individual counseling to women as necessary. These groups are also in charge of overseeing the Counseling Center to monitor for women who present breastfeeding difficulties.
- The IRC IYFC Officer was also in charge of ensuring regular follow-up of the five IYCF groups. This follow up is either organized through house visits or during the monthly meeting with all members of the IYCF groups. A total of 54 lactating women benefitted from the regular support. The main difficulty encountered by lactating women is the lack of breast milk. In addition, the cultural practice in Menaka city of providing cow milk in addition to breast milk is very common and mothers are not aware of the risks of this practice. During this period, a specific focus on exclusive breastfeeding counseling was provided to lactating women. In the coming months, the IRC will also target grandmothers and fathers for counseling through house visits to encourage behavior change.
- The IRC IYCF officer was also in charge of monitoring all women attending the CSRef maternity unit in order to provide counseling on IYCF before and after delivery as well as to facilitate the follow up at home with the five IYFC groups. A total of 54 women who delivered at the maternity unit received specific support on breastfeeding.

Sub-sector 2: Management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)

As explained in the proposal, management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) is currently being undertaken through an ECHO-funded program that started in March 2015 and ends in December 2015. The OFDA-funded project complements the ECHO project through community based management activities, such as training and follow up of Community Health Volunteers (CHV) in charge of active screening, referral and sensitization.

During the reporting period, the IRC planned to train 18 community health volunteers (CHV) in health areas without a functioning Community Health Center ("aires de sante non fonctionnelles"). This number was decreased to 10 CHVs this month in Menaka City (2 per neighborhood), as the remaining 8 were deemed to already have the necessary knowledge. In early August, the IRC took over the nutrition ambulatory treatment and supplementation for Menaka City (inside the CSref) which was previously managed by MDM BE. Based on the type of cases seen at the CSref, an urgent need for active screening at the community level was identified to ensure early stage identification on malnourished children. As a consequence, the IRC and the Ministry of health conducted a three-day training for 10 previously identified CHVs. This training included screening practices, the referral system, sensitization on malnutrition and its causes as well as IYFC information. During this period, 431 moderately malnourished children were admitted to the supplementary feeding program (URENAM). These admission figures are related to the seasonality, with an increase of admissions at the beginning of the hunger gap period. The performance indicators are within the recommended standards with 89% cure rate and 11% defaulter rate.

During the reporting period, the CHVs organized awareness-raising sessions in communities in the health district of Menaka. The main topics covered were early and exclusive breastfeeding as well as common pathologies. A total of 2275 persons (1,902 female and 873 male) attended the sessions.

Sub-sector 3: Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)

The management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) activities is also currently being undertaken through an ECHO-funded project. The OFDA program complements the project with community based management activities, such as training and follow up of CHVs in charge of active screening/referral and sensitization.

A total of 172 severely malnourished children were admitted to the therapeutic feeding program (URENAS) during the reporting period. The SAM cured and death rate are almost in the range of the recommended standards (>75% of cured rate, <10% of death rate) with 74% cured rate, and 0% of death rate but defaulter rate remains high with 26%. This is mainly explained by the fact that mothers did not attend health facilities on a weekly basis (in comparison to MAM supplementation every two weeks).

Objective 4: To enhance women's livelihoods through a pilot program of direct support using VSLA methodology and business skills (including literacy and numeracy).

Economic Recovery and Market Systems

Beneficiary numbers

Beneficiaries targeted: 4,815 direct beneficiaries, including 250 women of 10 VSLA groups; 500 young mothers and youth at risk; 4,000 beneficiaries of psychosocial activities at the Child Protection Centers; 50 members of the child protection community networks; 15 staff of DNPEF/DRPEF. Reached in the quarter: 1,836 total direct beneficiaries including 125 women from VLSA groups, 500 young mothers and youth, and 1,211 beneficiaries of psychosocial activities.

Sub-sector 1 & 2: Microfinance & New Livelihoods Development

Youth & Livelihoods (Y&L):

A total of 500 children have been assisted through IGA or vocational training:

- 472 young people (315 girls and 157 boys) including 100 children (50 girls and 50 boys) were supported with cash in Kidal, 200 in Ansongo (131 girls and 69 boys) and 172 in Douentza (134 girls and 38 boys). These young people have benefited from a first follow-up visit, and the report is currently being finalized.
- 28 youth (20 boys and 8 girls) with vocational trainings have received their start up kits to facilitate their reintegration into the communities. They started their activities with the support of the protection focal point and GSAD.

Microfinance:

During the reporting period, the IRC supported the 5 VSLA groups by providing materials to help them start income generating activities (IGA) for a total amount of \$1,000 per group.

III. Indicator Tracking**Table 2: Objective Achievements for Project by Indicator**

Indicator	Target	Actual Q4	Cumulative	Remarks
OBJECTIVE 1 Sector: Protection; Sub-Sector: Child Protection				
1. Number of people trained in child protection, disaggregated by sex	260 people (160 men and 100 women)	83 (51 women and 32 men)	667 (305 women and 362 men)	
2. Number of trained IRC staff and partners reporting an increased understanding of resiliency and case management steps and procedures.	100% of those trained (200)	0	87	The remaining 113 people will be trained during the next quarter in Kidal.
3. Number of children and caregivers reached by awareness sessions, by sex	35,000 (25,000 female 10,000 male) approx.	2,473 people (645 men, 330 boys and 1,073 women, 425 girls)	71,655 people (11,800 men, 17,780 boys and 19,170 women, 22,905 girls)	The IRC was able to greatly surpass its original target thanks to the use of radio programs.
4. Number of children entered into CP IMS who receive an action plan and at least one follow up visit (OFDA)	1,300 (1,000 girls, 300 boys)	152 children (122 boys and 30 Girls)	677 children (336 boys and 341 girls)	
5. Number of children participating in psychosocial activities	4,000	1,211 (624 girls and 587 boys)	19,883 (9,829 girls and 10,054 boys)	Based on needs that arose during discussions with communities, the IRC decided to expand its

Table 2: Objective Achievements for Project by Indicator

Indicator	Target	Actual Q4	Cumulative	Remarks
(psychosocial centers and case management)				activities to children in remote villages. For this reason, the IRC was able to greatly surpass its original target.
6. Percent of children reporting improvements in resiliency and accessing services	80%	0	0	Will be reported at the end of the project
OBJECTIVE 1 Sector: Protection; Sub-Sector: Prevention and Response to Gender-based Violence				
1. Number of individuals benefiting from GBV services, by sex (OFDA)	2,320 total (800 women, 720 girls, 400 boys and 400 men).	1806 people (840 women, 628 girls, 157 boys, 181 men)	10,725	Target was surpassed thanks to mass awareness raising sessions
2. Number of people trained in GBV prevention or response, by sex (OFDA)	78 (GBV, health, child protection, and WASH staff and health center staff)	52 (34 women and 18 men)	165	19 volunteers, 25 VSLA women promoters, 8 men from men's discussion group
3. Number of CCom and number of survivors who receive Post-rape Kits	8 CCom/80 survivors	0/0	0/8	Post-rape kits will be distributed to health centers in October.
4. Percent of community group sessions held where participants demonstrate knowledge of existing services, their importance and how to access these services by the end of project	75%	51,02%	58,52%	13 sessions were held during this quarter. 150 out of the 294 participants scored over 50%.

Table 2: Objective Achievements for Project by Indicator

Indicator	Target	Actual Q4	Cumulative	Remarks
5. Number of survivors referred by other services	400 survivors	14	175 cases	
6. Percent of health workers who have received training on the medical management of cases of sexual violence and have applied the standard protocols and put into practice GBV survivor-centered services	90%	0	7/12 or 58.3%	An evaluation of health workers knowledge will be held in December.
7. Women and girls in focus groups report increased safety and access to gender-based violence services	70%	0	0	This will be reported at the end of the project
OBJECTIVE 1 Sector: Protection; Sub-Sector: Protection Coordination, Advocacy, and Information				
1. Number of people trained in protection, by sex (OFDA)	100	0	65	
2. Number of IRC led workshop sessions with Government and Protection cluster working group on Case management and IA CPMS	6 (quarterly)	0	7	
3. Number of community leaders who take action to reduce risk for women and girls (OFDA)	8	0	3	
TOTAL OBJECTIVE 1: Number of Beneficiaries Targeted: 9,658 Number of Beneficiaries Reached: 32,117				
OBJECTIVE 2 Sector: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Sub-Sector: Sanitation Infrastructure				

Table 2: Objective Achievements for Project by Indicator

Indicator	Target	Actual Q4	Cumulative	Remarks
1. Estimate of the population served by the sanitation program (OFDA)	11,328	650	10,987	650 additional people were served with the completion of works in the women's center in Menaka
2. Number of hand washing facilities in use at target CScCom	9	10	10	
3. Number of latrines at CScCom completed and clean	3	0	3	
OBJECTIVE 2 Sector: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Sub-Sector: Environmental Health				
1. Number of people targeted by Environmental health program (OFDA)	10,728	650	10,987	
2. Number of CScCom targeted by environmental health program	3	0	4	CScCom of Boni, Dallah, Debere and Douentza
3. Number of CScCom targeted for medical waste management	3	0	3	
4. Number of visits where evaluation showed proper segregation and disposal of medical waste	3	0	3	This activity has been completed.
OBJECTIVE 2 Sector: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Sub-Sector: Water Supply Infrastructure				
1. Estimate of population served by water supply program (OFDA)	12,097	650	9,685	
2. Number of CScCom targeted by water supply infrastructure	3	0	3	
3. Number of water points developed,	5	0	5	

Table 2: Objective Achievements for Project by Indicator

Indicator	Target	Actual Q4	Cumulative	Remarks
repaired or rehabilitated				
4. Number of water points tested with 0 fecal coli forms per 100mL sample	5	0	3	
5. Number of child protection centers provided with access to potable water	2	0	2	
OBJECTIVE 2 Sector: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Sub-Sector: Hygiene Promotion				
1. Number of people receiving hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double-counting) (OFDA)	22,916	6,755	23,327	Activities led by local partner, ADDA, in 4 CScom and 12 villages
2. Number of artisans trained on repairs and maintenance	6	0	4	
3. Number of water points that are clean and protected from contamination	5	0	5	
4. Number of community outreach workers trained in hygiene promotion	28	0	28	
TOTAL OBJECTIVE 2: Number of Beneficiaries Targeted: 22,916 Number of Beneficiaries Reached: 22,006				
OBJECTIVE 3 Sector: Nutrition; Sub-Sector: Infant and Young Child Feeding and Behavior Change				
1. Number and percentage of infants 0-<6 mo. who are exclusively breastfed (OFDA)	Information will be available through the baseline and end line survey			Activities will begin during Q4 for Menaka city and will be evaluated at the end of the project

Table 2: Objective Achievements for Project by Indicator

Indicator	Target	Actual Q4	Cumulative	Remarks
2. Number and percentage of children 6-23 months of age who receive foods daily from 4 or more food groups (to achieve minimum dietary diversity)	Information will be available through the baseline and end line survey			Activities begin during Q4 for Menaka city and will be evaluated at the end of the project
3. Number of CHWs trained and supported (total and per 10,000 population within project area), by sex	55431+	10	97	10 new CHWs were trained during this quarter in addition to the 87 CHVs supported already by the project.
4. Number of people receiving behavior change interventions, by sex and age	7,500	2,775	16,457	
OBJECTIVE 3 Sector: Nutrition; Sub-Sector: Management of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)				
1. Number of health care providers and volunteers trained in the prevention and management of MAM, by sex	55 (50% male, 50% female)	10	97	55 already trained in Q1 + 32 trained in Q2 + 10 trained in Q5
2. Number of Moderate acute malnourishment cases screened at community level by CHWs (identified as malnourished and referred to health facilities)	700	431	1180	This number represents the number of children admitted in the treatment program
OBJECTIVE 3 Sector: Nutrition; Sub-Sector: Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)				
1. Number of health care providers and volunteers trained in the prevention	55	0	97	55 already trained in Q1 + 32 trained in Q2 + 10 trained in Q5

Table 2: Objective Achievements for Project by Indicator

Indicator	Target	Actual Q4	Cumulative	Remarks
and management of SAM, by sex and age (ODFA)				
2. Number of severe acute malnourishment cases screened at community level by CHWs (identified as malnourished and referred to health facilities)	350	172	404	This number represents the number of children admitted in the program
TOTAL OBJECTIVE 3: Number of Beneficiaries Targeted: 7,555 Number of Beneficiaries Reached: 16,604				
OBJECTIVE 4 Sector: Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Sub-Sector: Microfinance				
1. Number of people, by sex, or MSEs newly receiving financial services or continuing to receive financial services due to USAID/OFDA support (OFDA)	250 women	125	125	5 groups of 25 women
2. Percentage of financial service accounts/groups supported by USAID/OFDA that are functioning properly (OFDA)	85%	100%	100%	5 VSLA groups are functioning properly.
3. Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities (OFDA)	\$1,000	\$4 876	\$8 315	The amount is higher than the target due to an underestimation of the popularity of the VSLA activities.
OBJECTIVE 4 Sector: Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Sub-Sector: New Livelihoods Development				
1. Number of people assisted through new livelihoods development activities,	4,565	0	2332 (1037 boys, 1142	

Table 2: Objective Achievements for Project by Indicator

Indicator	Target	Actual Q4	Cumulative	Remarks
disaggregated by sex (OFDA)			girls, 95 men and 58 women)	
2. Number of new MSEs started (OFDA)	250	375	655	Figure includes 375 from 15 additional VSLA groups that were created spontaneously in communities
3. Percentage of people, disaggregated by sex, continuing in their new livelihoods by program completion (OFDA)	70%	0	0	Will be reported in the next quarterly report
4. Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities (OFDA)	\$51,000	0	\$50,000	Figure had been incorrectly entered in previous report
TOTAL OBJECTIVE 4: Number of Beneficiaries Targeted: 4,815			Number of Beneficiaries Reached: 20,508	
TOTAL PROJECT : Number of Beneficiaries Targeted: 75,268			Number of Beneficiaries Reached: 91,235	

IV. Constraints, Challenges and Lessons Learned**Child Protection**

One of the main challenges regularly encountered by teams is the low appreciation of education seen in of the target populations. This lack of understanding about the utility of sending children to schools and well as some socio-cultural traditions (for example, forced and early marriage) has slowed behavior change.

WASH

Local partners reported high levels of interest and participation from the population for WASH projects, even during Ramadan and other busy periods, indicating the importance of water and hygiene improvements for these populations. Additionally, there continues to be a strong need for rehabilitation and construction work. According to the local partner ADDA, populations regularly visit their office to request such interventions.

Nutrition

Thanks to improvements in the security situation during this quarter, the IRC was able to conduct the majority of its activities. However, floods in Menaka city during the month of August limited the access of beneficiaries to the pilot counseling center.

The training and implementation of IYFC groups and the collaboration with the Ministry of Health staff have strengthened social cohesion between different ethnic groups living in Menaka city. The presence of community women leaders in IYCF groups has allowed better access to all communities.

V. Activities for the following quarter

Child Protection:

- Community dialogues
- Continue psychosocial activities
- Continue awareness raising activities
- Monitor the effects of psychosocial activities on children's resilience

Gender Based Violence:

- Training of GBV staff on the Engaging Men in Accountability Practices (EMAP) methodology
- Preparations for the 16 days of activism on forced and early marriage
- Workshop with the local partner CRADE to discuss lessons learned
- Distribution of Post-Rape kits to health centers

WASH :

- No activities planned for the next quarter, though the IRC would like to continue activities in Douentza and Menaka during the next quarter

Nutrition:

- Follow up of IFYC community groups and counseling center in Menaka city
- Awareness raising through local radio stations

Economic Recovery and Market Systems:

- Support IGAs of the 125 women in the VSLA groups of Menaka